

“Can you connect me with another parent who has had a similar experience?”



“We have had so many expenses while my child has been in the hospital. Can you help us?”

“What do I need to know about changes in public benefits when my child turns 18?”



“I need help talking to my daughter’s school about her illness.”



For information and program descriptions:

Contact our Community Support Line,
Monday through Friday, from 9:00am
to 5:00pm.

800-882-1435 within Massachusetts
(617-624-6060 outside of Massachusetts)
TTY: 617-624-5992

E-mail: specialhealthneeds@state.ma.us
Web: www.mass.gov/dph/specialhealthneeds

For more copies of this brochure, please e-mail us.



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program



*For families with children
ages birth to 22
with chronic medical, physical,
developmental, behavioral or
emotional conditions*

About us:

The Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program works with families, providers, and others to support children and youth with special health needs. We partner with families to ensure policies and programs meet their needs.

Our staff includes parents of children with special health needs who can understand and help you with the challenges you may be facing. We help families get the resources they need.

We work closely with other Department of Public Health programs, such as Early Intervention.

Call us if:

- You have concerns about your child's health or development.
- Your child visits the doctor more than other children.
- You have questions about what services and supports are available to help your family.
- You feel as if no one knows how hard it is to care for your child.
- You need help paying for your child's medical and related expenses.

We can help you:

- Find out what services and resources may be available to your family.
- Find services in your town.
- Get information about public benefits (such as SSI) and health insurance.
- Get information about your child's condition.
- Get HIV-related medical care and supports.
- Get services for children with life-limiting medical conditions.
- Prepare for emergencies.
- Prepare your child for adult life, including adult services, health care, and greater independence.
- Become a more effective advocate and help your child advocate for him/herself.
- Connect with other families who have children with special health needs.
- Coordinate your child's care.



 800-882-1435



Our programs include:

- Community Support Line
- Care Coordination
- Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund
- Family Initiatives
- Family TIES of Massachusetts*
- Hearing Aid Program
- MassCARE
- MASSTART
- Medical Review Team
- Pediatric Palliative Care
- Public Benefits Training
- Universal Newborn Hearing Screening

*A DPH-funded project of the Federation for Children with Special Needs